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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/531,822

10/24/2005

Mark Brister

PA1187

3938

28390 7590 02/01/2011
MEDTRONIC VASCULAR, INC.
IP LEGAL DEPARTMENT
3576 UNOCAL PLACE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

EXAMINER

HOUSTON, ELIZABETH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3731

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/01/2011

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

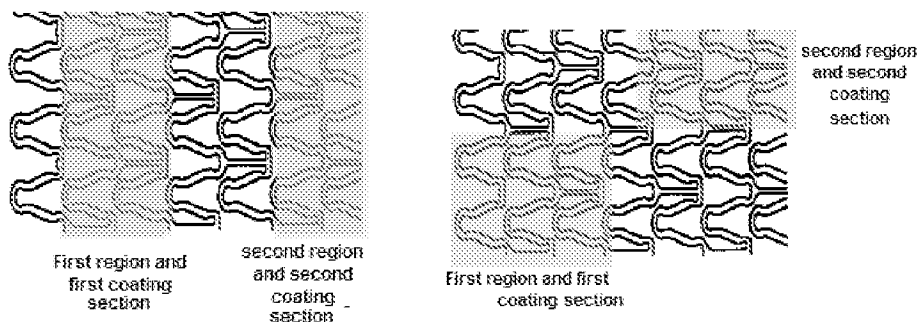
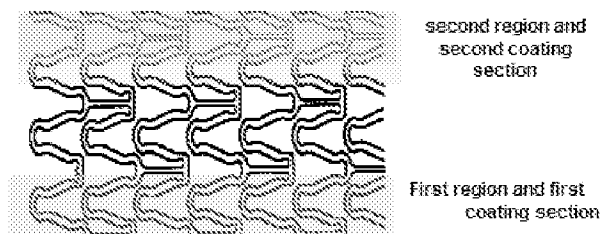
Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

rs.vasciplegal@medtronic.com

Art Unit: 3731

Response to Arguments

Applicant states that Castro fails to disclose a patterned coating extending over the regions as claimed. Applicant further states that the Castro patent fails to disclose discrete coating sections over the regions. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Shown below are a few possible scenarios that depict a first region across adjacent cylindrical stent segments, a first coating completely covering the outer surface in the first region, a second region across adjacent cylindrical stent segments, a second coating completely covering the outer surface in the first region such that the first and second coating sections are discrete. What Castro fails to disclose is that the first coating section is a single layer directly adjacent to the outer surface and the second coating section is a single layer directly adjacent to the outer surface. Ragheb explicitly states, "Different bioactive agents may be applied to different sections of surfaces of the device." (C29:L19-21). Ragheb goes on to state, "... or the bioactive material may be applied in parallel lines, particularly where two or more bioactive materials are applied to the same surface." (C20:L1-3). The fact that Ragheb intended to apply different active agents to the different sections of the stent indicates that each agent is applied to the surface in discrete locations rather than in layers in the same location (as disclosed by Castro). Thus Ragheb provides the missing limitation.



Applicant summarizes that which is disclosed by Castro and that which is disclosed by Ragheb and merely states that the combination of the two does not suggest the applicant's invention. Applicant's arguments do not provide valid reasons as to why the combination is improper. As such the rejection is maintained.

/Elizabeth Houston/

Examiner, Art Unit 3731